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Meet the Newest Authority Board Member: Robert B. Cooper

As the recently hired Director of Public Works for Harford County, Robert B. Cooper was sworn in as the newest Authority Board

Member on October 25, 2005. Bob is a lifelong resident of Harford County, having received his B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland. Bob is also a Professional Engineer in Civil Engineering. He currently manages over 400 employees and oversees a budget of approximately \$120 million for Harford County's Public Works Department.

Prior to becoming Harford County's Director of Public Works, Bob was the Director of Public Works for the Town of Bel Air. Bob resides in Bel Air and has a personal interest in the growth and management of the town to ensure a high quality of life for its residents.

Bob has worked for Harford County Government several times in the past, including the role of Deputy Director of Public Works for the Water and Sewer Division.

In that position, Bob managed 165 employees while handling a \$25 million budget.



Bob Cooper (left) receives his Authority commission from Jim Reilly, Harford County's Clerk of the County.

Bob has also held varied positions in the private sector over the past 25 plus years. He has held the title of Vice President in several companies and managed both residential and commercial projects in the homebuilding industry. His construction experience includes road and utility projects and project management for the construction of municipal solid waste landfills in Harford and Baltimore Counties.

Bob has two children in their 20's who also live in Bel Air. Bob is active in his church and civic groups. His interests include playing tennis and golf, creating and working crossword puzzles, photography, reading and traveling. In fact, he recently returned from a two week trip to Ireland.

Bob has attended several Authority meetings in the past as Harford County Government's representative and is looking forward to working with the Board as a member.

Making Tracks

Railway track systems at the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) and the Montgomery County Transfer Station are being expanded by over 3,000 feet to increase rail car storage and improve the overall efficiency of the rail transportation system. **Learn more inside...**



Montgomery County Railyard Expansion

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The rail yard improvements at the RRF will allow the Authority's operator to store more rail cars, resulting in the operation of two complete sets of rail cars. The two sets of rail cars will smooth the delivery process of the solid waste from the Transfer Station.

The RRF receives all of its solid waste by train from the Transfer Station, which is approximately 18 miles away. The Authority has a contract with CSX Transportation to move a train six days a week from the Transfer Station to the RRF. The railroad's main line carries other freight as well as an increasing amount of commuter trains through Montgomery County, with commuter rail traffic taking precedence over freight traffic.

Prior to the expansion, a train of 45 rail cars had to be brought to the RRF from the Transfer Station each morning. When the train reached the RRF, it took the operator, Covanta, approximately two hours to unload a portion of the train and

reload empty containers back onto the train. CSX then carries a train of empty containers back to the Transfer Station to be filled for the next day's train. The ability to store two full trains of rail cars at the RRF will allow CSX to drop off the full train from the Transfer Station and immediately return to the Transfer Station with a train full of empty containers.

The two hours saved will improve the operating conditions at the RRF and enhance track availability for commuter trains, ensuring a smooth operation for years to come. As the population increases in the DC metro area, the commuter rail traffic is anticipated to increase. By removing the two hour unloading period, CSX will have greater flexibility to travel on the main line during periods when the commuter traffic is lighter.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please call Amanda Ohler at the Authority.

The two hours saved will improve the operating conditions at the RRF and enhance track availability for commuter trains, ensuring a smooth operation for years to come.



Part of the new track that was added at the RRF.



Forms were set to pour concrete to allow railyard gantry cranes to operate.



The existing switch was removed to accommodate the expansion.

Montgomery County Facility Operator Receives

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Prestigious VPP Star Rating ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Covanta Montgomery, Inc., the operator of the Authority's Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) in Dickerson, Maryland has been recommended by the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MOSH) to receive the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star Rating for outstanding health and safety practices in the workplace. The Star Rating is the highest honor given to facilities with outstanding health and safety practices. The announcement was made on November 9, 2005 by MOSH's William Grabau after a three day review of the Facility's safety program. A formal presentation of the award will be made in the Spring of 2006. The Montgomery County RRF launched its participation in the VPP program in July 2004 and is only the 5th facility in the State of Maryland to receive this recognition.

During the review process, it became very evident to the MOSH Team that safety is top priority to Covanta employees. MOSH cited housekeeping, waste transfer practices, industrial hygiene monitoring, fire and emergency procedures, thermal protection, safety signage and fork lift training as the employees' "Best Practices". This Star Rating recognition demonstrates that the Covanta Montgomery employees have gone far beyond the norms of good practices and have moved into the realm of excellence, setting the bar for others in the industry.

The VPP Program is a cooperative effort between industry and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to maintain safety in the workplace. VPP is made up of four basic elements: management leadership and employee

involvement, worksite analysis, hazard prevention and control, and safety and health training. The Montgomery RRF is the 11th Covanta facility to receive this recognition, which is earned by less than one percent of all worksites in the United States.

For more information on the Authority's Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility, Inc., visit www.nmwda.org.

News Flash

The Authority's Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility has been Certified as a Renewable Energy Facility for the Maryland Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Program!

Clean Up or Shut Down – Polluting Incinerators No Longer Allowed to Operate in the U.S.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington has issued new standards for "other solid waste incinerators" (OSWI) to help reduce air pollutants. According to an EPA press release, the new standards will reduce approximately 1,900 tons of air pollution per year from an estimated 248 OSWI incinerators, which consist of very small municipal waste combustion units and institutional

waste incineration units (such as hospital incinerators). OSWI units are the last category of waste incinerators that are required to add advanced pollution control technology. The promulgation of these regulations means the end of "incinerators" in the United States. Incinerators are defined as "a furnace that burns under controlled conditions" and are commonly regarded as old, dirty, smoky waste

burners of the late 19th and 20th centuries. The difference between an unregulated incinerator and a waste combustion system is the pollution control system. All facilities burning municipal solid waste (which includes commercial and institutional wastes) are now required by Federal law to include pollution control systems. All Authority Facilities meet or exceed EPA clean air standards.

Annual Inspection of Virginia Landfill

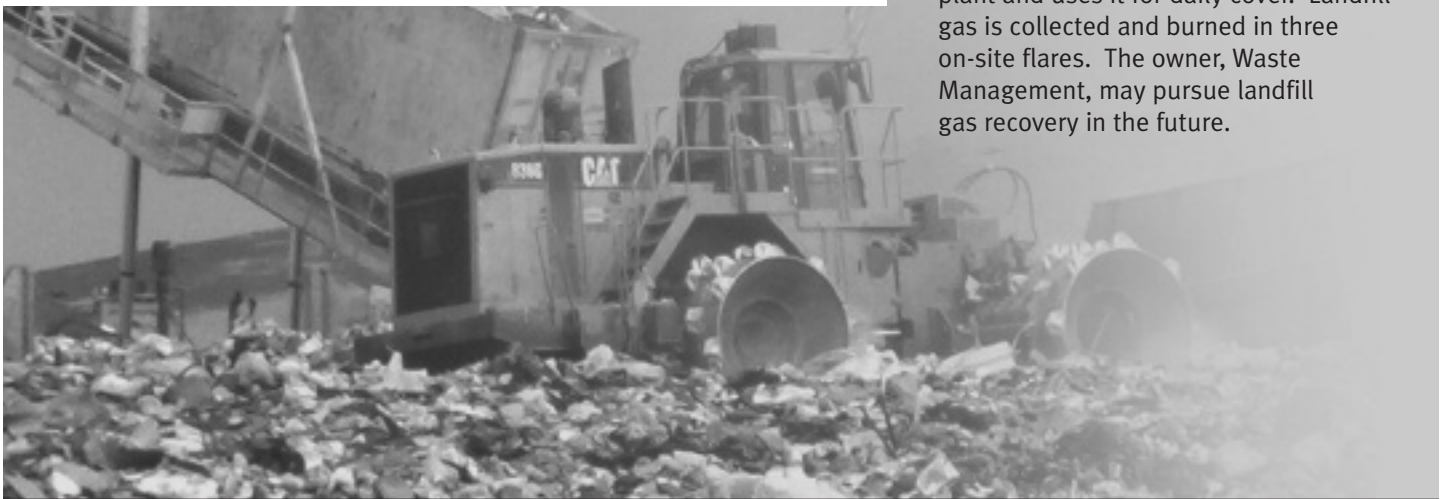


A transfer trailer unloads waste at the working face.
Coal ash (the gray material on the slope) is used for daily cover.

Representatives from Anne Arundel County and the Authority made their annual inspection in November of the King George County Landfill in Virginia. Waste Management leases the landfill site from King George County, Virginia and has sole responsibility for developing and managing the landfill.

The Authority contracts with Waste Management for the acceptance, transportation and disposal of municipal solid waste (MSW) delivered by Anne Arundel and Howard Counties to the Annapolis Junction Transfer Station in Jessup, Maryland. The purpose of the annual facility site visit is to inspect the landfill, review operations and discuss regulatory compliance. Jason Pauley, director of the Solid Waste and Recycling Department for King George County, conducted the tour.

King George Landfill site is 420 acres, of which 280 acres will be developed as landfill. The landfill has been in operation for 9 years and annually receives, on average, 4,000 tons per day. If this disposal rate is continued at the same pace, the County estimates that 23 years of MSW disposal capacity is remaining. Each year there is a new 12-18 acre cell opened for accepting MSW. The landfill accepts ash from the adjacent coal-fired power plant and uses it for daily cover. Landfill gas is collected and burned in three on-site flares. The owner, Waste Management, may pursue landfill gas recovery in the future.





Maryland Close to 40% Waste Diversion Goal

In November, the Maryland Department of the Environment released waste diversion rates for 2004 and reported that Maryland diverted 38.8 percent of its waste last year. The Maryland Legislature set a voluntary 40% waste diversion goal for 2005. The rate includes a 35.8 percent recycling and a 3 percent source reduction credit.

Baltimore County's Recycling Chief Honored in News Article

Charlie Reighart's hard work, dedication and passion for recycling were recognized in an in-depth Towson Times article in December. As the head of Baltimore County's recycling division since its inception in 1990, Charlie has worked to make Baltimore County's curbside pick-up recycling program No. 1 in the state! Congratulations, Charlie!



Authority Transitions: People on the Move

Arthur Balmer, Authority board member representing Montgomery County, retired from his position as Chief of the Division of Solid Waste with the County in December. Laura Thomson joined Howard County's recycling office as their Public Outreach Coordinator

last fall and Andrew Kays will be the Environmental Monitoring Manager for Anne Arundel County's Waste Management Services division.

Landfill Gas Used to Produce Biodiesel

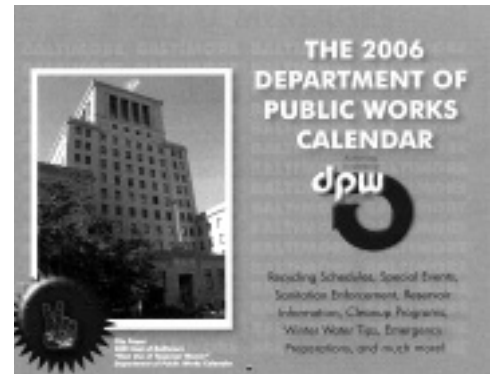
Landfill gas is a renewable fuel from restaurant fats and plants that has many opportunities for utilization. The 9th Annual Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) conference is a place to learn more about landfill gas and was held in Baltimore this January.

In Denton, Texas, the oil that makes French fries crispy runs the city's truck fleet. Denton is home to the country's first landfill gas powered biodiesel project. Global demand for petroleum continues to rise and the U.S. has limited reserves, so biodiesel becomes a viable option. Biodiesel is produced by taking vegetable oil from plants, or used frying oil from restaurants and mixing it with an alcohol reactant and catalyst. The landfill gas at the Denton landfill is used to generate steam to process the waste oil into biodiesel. The reaction is called transesterification and produces glycerin, pure biodiesel and waste water. The waste water is used for dust control at the landfill.

Biodiesel is used in Denton's truck fleet in order to reduce pollution emissions. The transition from petroleum diesel to biodiesel requires little to no infrastructure changes as diesel engines were first designed and tested with peanut oil over 100 years ago. The City of Denton uses a B20 blend in their trucks, 80% petroleum diesel and 20% B100 (biodiesel). The B20 blend meets the EPA requirement for alternate fuel use; however any blend or pure biodiesel can be used. This biodiesel is clean burning, non-toxic,

produced domestically, and can support local farmers depending on the location of the production facility.

Department of Public Works Calendar for 2006



Baltimore City's award-winning Department of Public Works Calendar for 2006 has recently been published and distributed to over 186,000 households. Baltimore's 2005 calendar received the City Paper's "Best Use of Taxpayer Money" award!

The calendar includes recycling schedules, special events, sanitation enforcement, reservoir information, clean up programs, winter water tips, emergency preparations, and much more!

The International Compost Awareness Week

"The Possibilities are Endless – Compost"

May 7 – 13, 2006

for more information on composting go to www.compostingcouncil.org



The new PartnerBins are located throughout the downtown area of Baltimore City.

Baltimore City Finds a Way to Recycle Downtown Litter



“Find a way to offer street level recycling in the downtown commercial center and Harborplace” – Mayor Martin O’Malley.

The Baltimore City Bureau of Solid Waste, Environmental Services Division, with assistance from the Northeast Authority, found a solution to this challenge from the Mayor of Baltimore City. Outdoor Partner Media (OPM), a Tennessee-based company which markets a litter/recycling container, offered the City a novel program, calling it “PartnerBins”. OPM donated collection bins for litter and recyclables to replace the current litter bins located throughout the City. Prior to the placement of the PartnerBins, recyclables in the commercial and tourist areas downtown were not collected on the street level.

The Authority conducted a phone survey of public works departments in cities across the Country to determine what, if any, recyclable collection was occurring in tourist areas. After a review of the results, the City contacted OPM and set up a meeting to further discuss the placement of the units in tourist areas downtown.

The PartnerBin, constructed in Maryland by Victor Stanley, Inc. of Dunkirk, is designed with separate openings for waste and bottles and cans (see image). The separated material falls into one of two receptacles inside the locked PartnerBin. OPM places the unit, free of charge, in agreed upon locations throughout the City. Revenue is generated from the sale of advertising space on the sides on the PartnerBins, a portion of which is shared with the City. OPM is responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of the units. The City is responsible for the collection of waste and the recyclables.

For more information on the PartnerBin program, visit Outdoor Partner Media’s website at: www.outdoorpartner.com.



WASTEWATCH

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